



NOTICE OF 30-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
A Portion of the Cooper River Bridge SC Department of Transportation Right-of-Way Site
Former Grace Memorial Bridge and Silas Pearman Bridge
Charleston, South Carolina

DHEC (the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control) is accepting public comments on a proposed Voluntary Cleanup Contract through September 7, 2011.

Voluntary Cleanup Contract 11-6027-NRP will affect approximately 6.042 acres occupying portions of approximately five (5) city blocks within a primarily residential area. The South Carolina Department of Transportation will transfer ownership of the Property to the City of Charleston (City). This Voluntary Cleanup Contract will be between DHEC and the City.

The property was the right-of-way for the former Cooper River Bridges (Grace Memorial Bridge and Silas Pearman Bridge). Before the completion of the Silas Pearman Bridge, the property provided a throughway where automobile repair shops, retail petroleum (gas) stations and a drycleaner operated. The property is bounded by Lee, former Drake, Cooper and generally Meeting Streets. The property includes America, Aiken, Hanover, and Nassua Streets between Lee and Cooper Streets.

The City intends to take title to the property and convey the Property to private developers for mixed use to include low-income housing. If this Voluntary Cleanup Contract is implemented, DHEC will allow the City to receive the property as a "Brownfields Site" because of the potential for environmental pollution. The City did not create the pollution but will take steps to control it and to keep the property safe for re-use.

DHEC will not hold the City responsible for the pre-existing pollution in exchange for doing work under the Voluntary Cleanup Contract. Under State law, the City will not be responsible if anyone is affected by the contamination. Entering into this contract does not reduce the responsibility of any former owners or operators of the site.

Under the proposed contract, the City will test soil and groundwater from the property. If significant contamination is found, the City will be required to take additional steps to protect human health and the environment.

DHEC uses Voluntary Cleanup Contracts to keep Brownfield sites in productive reuse. The proposed contract is available at http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/lwm/public_notice.asp. Printed copies may be obtained from the DHEC Freedom of Information Office at (803) 898-3882.

Citizens may provide written, email, or telephone comments on the proposed contract through September 7, 2011. Questions or comments may be directed to Jo Cherie Overcash, Project Manager, email overcajc@dhec.sc.gov, telephone (803) 896-4019; or Alex Fulmer at email fulmerwa@dhec.sc.gov or TOLL-FREE telephone (866) 576-3432. Written comments should be directed to either individual at SCDHEC, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201.